third party insurance which was a very important issue might perhaps be discussed now.

The PRESIDENT concurred in that view. He thought that there was no harm in discussing that point. There was however an alternative suggestion for the consideration of the House, namely, that the Bill might be taken up for consideration on the last day.*

Rao Bahadur M. RAMASWAMY, Mr. A. SRIKANTIAH and some other members agreed to the alternative suggestion.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI however thought that members should be given sufficient time to ascertain from bus proprietors and lorry owners and owners of taxies their difficulties on the proposed legislation. Unfortunately most of the members of the House did not represent such persons. And this was a Bill which affected bus owners, etc., more than the class of people represented by the existing members. And the opinions of the bus owners, etc , could not possibly be ascertained before the last day of the present session. In the circumstances it was necessary to defer consideration of the Bill till a subsequent session.

Mr. A. N. RAMA RAO however did not think it necessary to postpone the Bill till after the last day of the Session.

Mr. RAZVI wanted to elicit the opinion of the Bus Owners Association in this connection. But the speaker asked whether it was usual to consult the Law Association, for example, before making every new law. Bus owners would have plenty of time to file objections and to communicate their own opinions even later.

Mr. A. K. SYED RASOOL said that in the case of other enactments, it was easy for members of the House among whom were many members of the Bar to express their own opinions; while in the case of the present Bill, members laboured under one handicap, namely that they had no views of their own about it.

Mr. M. SITARAMA SASTRY said that a law like this was very necessary. Government had taken a lot of trouble in preparing the Bill. They had also consulted representatives of many organizations. All that trouble would go to waste if the Bill was not proceeded with. He therefore wished that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA was in favour of postponing the Bill till the following session of the Assembly, an Emergency Act being passed by the Government in the meanwhile, if there was necessity for doing so.

Mr. K. HANUMANTHIAH said that if the suggestion to hold an extra session of the Assembly in the month of January was accepted, this Bill might as well be placed before the Assembly at that session. Secondly, there were as many as 22 bills placed before the House at its present session. But the number of days allotted therefor was only 10. No House of Legislature could possibly get through 22 bills, some of them very important and elaborate, within 10 days. This only showed the necessity for either extending the duration of each session or having an extra session of the House.

The PRESIDENT replied that that question might be decided later.

REPRESENTATIONS—*contd.*

No. 29.—Conversion of Narasimharajapura Sub-Taluk into a pucca taluk.

Mr. N. P. GOVINDA GOWDA (Narasimharajapura—Rural).

Mr. Kadidal MANJAPPA GOWDA who moved the representation on behalf of the mover, prayed that the Narasimharajapura Sub-Taluk be converted into a pucca taluk from 1st of January 1942.

The MINISTER for REVENUE and FINANCE (Rajamantrapravina K. V. Anantaraman) promised to consider the question.

No. 30.—Converting Kumsi Sub-Taluk into a pucca taluk.

Mr. K. G. BASAPPA (Kumsi—Rural). (*Not moved as the mover was absent*).

* Consideration of this Bill deferred till the next session. (*vide* 11th day's proceedings)

No. 31.—Re-allotment of certain hoblies to the newly constituted Alur Taluk.

Mr. A. P. BASAVALINGE GOWDA (Alur—Rural).

Mr. A. P. BASAVALINGE GOWDA prayed that as great inconvenience was caused owing to the present constitution of Alur Taluk, the taluk might be reconstituted as noted below :

	Places to be newly added	*Places to be transferred to other taluks*
From Belur Taluk.	Harwadi, Kesagodu.	To Alur Taluk.
From Manjarabad Taluk.	Belagodu Hobli	Do
Do	Belagodu Hobli as the headquarters.	Kenchammana Hoskote Hobli

The MINISTER for REVENUE and FINANCE (Rajamantrapravina K. V. Anantaraman) replied that needful enquiries would be made in regard to this matter.

No. 32.—Showing concession in resuming the lands by Government.

Mr. DODDALINGA NAIK (Hiriyur—Rural).

Mr. DODDALINGA NAIK represented that as 3,000 acres of land under the Vani Vilas Sagara Reservoir had been resumed by Government due to the unsound economic condition of the raiyats who were not in a position to get back their lands, the question might be examined with reference to the *pahani*, as to who had raised dry crops without using the channel water and who had left their lands barren by not raising any crop before such resumption by Government. In cases where water had not been utilised, he prayed that the water rate be waived and only the assessment recovered, and in cases where no crops had been raised without using water, the water-rate be recovered at a concession rate. He also prayed that no interest be charged and lands released after recovering only the assessment in the survey settlement from the concerned raiyats and also on payment of an upset price not exceeding the dry assessment.

The REVENUE COMMISSIONER (Rukn-ul-Mulk S. Abdul Wajid) stated that under the orders already in force *kathes* were being restored if only the arrears were cleared up.

Mr. DODDALINGA NAIK then represented that in a number of cases in the Hiriyur taluk, the raiyats were unable to pay even a single pie. Meanwhile lands had been brought to auction and then resumed to Government. The revenue demand in respect of those lands had been also written off. The point of the representation was that having done all this, local officers were demanding from the raiyats not merely the upset price but also a sum equivalent to 5 years arrears *plus* interest.

Mr. S. ABDUL WAJID stated that it was but right that they should pay up the arrears.

Mr. DODDALINGA NAIK replied that there was no arrears outstanding at all, because they had been already written off. Secondly, if the raiyats had actually cultivated the land they would be bound to pay assessment. But as stated already, they were unable to cultivate them. That was the reason why they had resigned them and the lands became fallow. It was only for the past two years that Government were letting water to these lands. Consequently the raiyats were somewhat better off now. But before that, the lands were absolutely dry, there was no watersupply at all; but all the same, water-rate was being levied. The levy of water-rate might be justified if water was let in. But there could be no justification for collecting it when no supply was made at all.

Mr. S. ABDUL WAJID regretted that he could not accept that line of reasoning. And as regards arrears, he stated that they had been written off merely because they were considered irrecoverable.

Mr. DODDALINGA NAIK said that the arrears had been written off because the raiyats were altogether penniless. If only the local officers had the least hope of recovering them, they would not have recommended the write-off.

Mr. S. ABDUL WAJID then stated that he would make enquiries if specific cases of special hardship were brought to notice.

Mr. DODDALINGA NAIK stated that it was a general grievance in the taluk as a whole.

Mr. N. RAMA RAO explained that this representation related to lands in which cultivation was being carried on originally, but to which water ceased to be supplied, resulting in the resignation of the lands by the concerned owners and their subsequent inclusion as Government land. Many such lands now remained fallow. There were no arrears due to Government on account of them. No one could draw any distinction as between such lands and lands which were really waste. If the lands were not granted to anybody now, Government were not going to make any profit out of them in future also. In such circumstances, if the raiyats who might have had interest in those lands originally wanted them to be granted now, Government could not in reason object to granting such requests. If therefore the facts were as stated by the mover, the representation was worthy of the utmost possible sympathy at the hands of the Government.

The MINISTER for REVENUE and FINANCE (Rajamantrapravina K. V. Anantaraman) said that if the facts were as stated, anybody could obtain these lands according to the usual darkhast rules. But if the relevant records were looked into, the member would find that there were demands still outstanding.

Mr. N. RAMA RAO wanted that previous demands should not be consulted at all and urged that the lands be given away under the darkhast rules.

Mr. K. V. ANANTARAMAN observed that that was not the representation before the House. What the mover wanted was that the lands should be granted to their original owners.

Mr. N. RAMA RAO urged that even if it were so, no penalty should attach to the original owners.

Mr. S. RAMAPPA pointed out that it was not prayed, even in the representation as it stood, that the outstanding arrears should be remitted in its entirety. What the mover wanted was that half the water-rate should be levied if dry crops had been raised, and full water-rate if wet crops had been realised. Personally, he felt that this was a very reasonable request. If the Government accepted it and gave away all the 3,000 acres of available land for cultivation, they would regularly get thousands of rupees by way of land revenue in future.

The PRESIDENT replied that if the facts were as stated, Government would enquire into them and consider the request sympathetically in view of the peculiar conditions under the Vani Vilas Sagara.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY agreed that if Government themselves were in possession of the lands, they might give them to anybody under the usual darkhast rules. But he thought that there was some difference between what the mover had told and what some others had understood it to mean. Under the usual darkhast rules Government might put up the land for auction. The prices might go up, though sometimes they might be reasonable too. But so far as he had personally understood the representation, it meant that perhaps the land belonged to a particular raiyat originally who was unable to pay the land revenue and on that account Government resumed that land. In such cases Government must show some concession in recovering the amount that was due at the time of the resumption. The concession might be the waiver of the water-rate in case wet cultivation had not been possible. Subject to that condition, the arrears might be collected. This appeared to be the gist of the representation also.

The PRESIDENT said that, as already stated, Government would ascertain the facts and deal with the representation as sympathetically as possible.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY again urged that some concession should be shown in respect of previous arrears, that the lands should be given to the original owners only, and that no land should be disposed of by means of public auction.

Mr. A. SRIKANTIAH suggested that only the arrears that were actually due on the date of the last auction should be collected and all claims in respect of subsequent years should be waived. He

hoped that there were already orders to that effect.

Mr. N. RAMA RAO suggested that some concession in respect of previous arrears should be shown and the lands given at upset price to the original owners alone.

The PRESIDENT was of opinion that no useful purpose was going to be served by discussing the question any further. Government must first know the facts.

Mr. DODDALINGA NAIK observed that even if the lands were brought to auction, there would be no bidders. Government would be bound to give the lands to the original owners only.

No. 33.—Enhancing the *potgi* of village officers and allowing them travelling allowance if they travel on Government duty.

Mr. M. SUBBA RAO (Channapatna—Rural).

No. 34.—Enhancement of the *potgi* to Patels and Shanbhogs.

Mr. J. S. KALLAPPA (Jagalur—Rural).

No. 35.—Increase of *potgi* to Patels and Shanbhogs in taluks where the Record of Rights Scheme has been introduced.

Mr. K. RAMANNA (Hole-Narasipur—Rural).

No. 36.—Increase of *potgi* to Patels and Shanbhogs at least by 50 per cent.

Mr. PUTTANARASE GOWDA (Goribidnur—Rural).

Mr. M. SUBBA RAO prayed that not only the *potgi* of the village officers be increased but also provision be made for entitling them to draw travelling allowances when they visited taluk headquarters on Government duty.

He stated that this question was being agitated for a long time past and yet, unfortunately, the Government had not come to realize the difficulties of village officers. While the employees of all other departments of Government were receiving reasonable salaries, travelling allowances, etc., and getting the benefit of additional emoluments from time to time, Shanbhogs and Patels seemed to have been singled out as unworthy of either reasonable or regular remuneration. No doubt they were getting *potgi* at fixed rates; but these had been fixed very long ago and bore no relation to present-day conditions. In olden times, village officers were not required to work hard for more than four or five months in the year, but latterly, on account of various fresh activities such as Record of Rights, etc. their work had increased by leaps and bounds. They had frequently to go to the Taluk Office and conveyance and incidental charges alone would amount to a considerable figure. They therefore deserved recompense in the shape of travelling and daily allowances at reasonable rates. Apart from this, work even at their headquarters had increased severalfold. In connection with muzrai, tank works, *takrar takthas* and any number of other demands, the village officers were expected to make collections and their work was both enormous and exacting. Besides, village officers were really the pillars of strength for the villages and it was essential that they should be kept above want or temptation.

Not only was this not the case at present, but the Shanbhogs were undergoing various other difficulties. Shanbhogs were being compelled to reside within their firkas. If, in particular cases, on account of the absence of certain facilities like schools, suitable quarters, etc., a Shanbhog happened to live outside his firka, objection would at once be taken and the Shanbhog would either be compelled to return to his firka or threatened to be relieved of his office.

Another difficulty experienced by village officers was that whenever they called at the Taluk Office for making treasury remittances, they were expected to please members of the staff in many ways, failing which the remittances would not be received promptly and the Patels and Shanbhogs would have to keep on for days together, incurring heavy out-of-pocket expenses. These being unforeseen expenses, the village officers would, out of sheer necessity, utilize a part of the amount meant to be credited to the treasury. But the moment this was noticed, the officials would get the village officers charged for misappropriation of Government money and that would lead to never-ending trouble for the latter.

It might be argued that village officers would not be hugging to their offices if they had been really subjected to many hardships and inconveniences. There was no doubt that hardships and inconveniences existed; but if they stuck to their posts in spite of them, it was because they considered it a proud privilege to have succeeded to a time-honoured office. But that should not make the Government think that the lot of the village officers was all that could be desired and stood in need of no improvement whatever. On the contrary, on account of the very hardships and inconveniences, it was imperative that their *potgi* should be increased, that they should be left undisturbed even if in a few particular cases they found it necessary to live outside their firkas but within a distance of 5 miles from any one of the villages in their charge, that travelling and daily allowances at reasonable rates should be allowed to them for all their journeys to and from the Taluk Office and conditions so improved as to make them feel contented and take interest in effectively improving the villages, sincerely helping the raiyats and loyally serving the Government.

Mr. J. S. KALLAPPA represented that the Patels and Shanbhogs, who were the village officers and who were like the foundation of village edifice, were not remunerated commensurately with the responsibility of their work, even though all the officials in the other departments of the State were paid properly. It was not right that they should be paid in the same old form of *potgi* which was very meagre. Their work and responsibility had increased fourfold. He therefore prayed that the *potgi* of these poor officials be increased by 75 per cent.

Mr. K. RAMANNA prayed that the *potgi* of Patels and Shanbhogs in taluks where the Record of Rights Scheme had been introduced be enhanced by 50 per cent at least, as the work had considerably increased in those taluks and there seemed to be a natural diminution in their enthusiasm for work.

Referring to the Shanbhogi service in general, the member stated that when hereditary *hak* was first conferred on Shanbhogs, it was in recognition of the valuable services rendered by the incumbents and their ancestors. It was as a matter of recognition of that, *inamthis* had also been granted to them. Former Rulers of the State had recognised that the prosperity of the State was dependent upon the loyal services of Shanbhogs and where such services had come to notice special sannads had been issued. Many of the Patels and Shanbhogs were well-to-do persons. The *potgi* that they got was only a small fraction of their income and in a few cases, it was next to nothing to them. At any rate this was the case formerly. It was only in recent times that village officers were not getting on well and really stood in need of any improvement in the scales of *potgi* that might be considered practicable. In view of the addition of Record of Rights work, village officers had to put in much more time than before. Formerly they were expected to do hard work only for three or four months in the year while latterly in view of the Record of Rights Scheme they were obliged to work hard throughout the year. No doubt mutation fees were being levied in lieu of transfers of entries; but the village officers got little or no benefit from them. There was thus real necessity to increase the *potgi* of Patels and Shanbhogs.

It was well known that many *baravardars* were not living in their own firkas and only *gumastas* were officiating for them. This was so because of the want of inducement to village officers to stick on to their firkas. They were therefore dissatisfied with their lot and migrated into towns and cities in quest of other jobs. Some of them were even obliged to misappropriate Government moneys out of sheer necessity. No doubt they knew the law that they should not misappropriate public funds. Obviously therefore it meant that there was no other go for them. This was yet another reason why the scales of *potgi* should be revised on a very liberal basis.

Village officers were not mere clerks. They were the leaders of the people.

The prosperity of the villages, as stated already, depended upon the enthusiasm and loyalty with which they worked. Even in respect of village improvement and other works it was their enthusiasm that counted for much. That enthusiasm was now not present anywhere. Government had stated recently that village officers should be treated as Government servants. If this were so, there was no reason why Government should not have improved their emoluments also whenever they had improved the scales of salaries of Government officials in the past.

It was well known too that Shanbhogs and Patels were expected to go all the way to the taluk headquarters together with village accounts for remitting revenue collections to the treasury. In olden days these people were being fed in any select house to which they happened to go at taluk headquarters. But now-a-days in view of the availability of hotels, these people felt shy to thrust themselves upon others' hospitality and similarly house-owners at taluk headquarters were also not over-anxious to treat village officers as guests because of their own economic conditions. But the *potgi* itself being so inadequate, the village officers were finding it difficult to meet all the charges incidental to their journeys to and from the taluk headquarters and managing to get through their business at the Taluk Office. It was on account of a series of circumstances like these that a few of the village officers sometimes misappropriated part of the collections they had made. As stated already, they did it out of sheer necessity. But it might be stated that to some little extent the Government were also responsible for it because they did not give the village officers sufficient inducement to keep themselves above board. The village officers' remuneration should be so enhanced that they should not feel the necessity for more than what they actually got. It was also necessary to make them feel that they had a legitimate place in the scheme of administration. The speaker was pained to refer to this aspect of the case because latterly some of the higher officers were treating village officers with scant courtesy. If these persons were only paid better and treated better, things would improve very much and Government would surely benefit by them. In the circumstances he hoped that Government would view this representation with all possible sympathy.

Mr. Baliam SRINIVASA RAO brought to notice that in addition to the known items of expenditure, village officers were actually being made to bear certain extra items. If only the Government took steps to ascertain what those items were and helped the officers to save the amounts for themselves, then, work in the villages and particularly collection work, would improve very much because the village officers would be relieved of financial strain and be delighted to a considerable extent.

It was a fact that not only at the Taluk Offices but also in connection with several kinds of jamabandis the village officers were experiencing difficulties peculiar to their service. It was high time that Government examined the question, gave them necessary relief and increased their *potgi*.

Mr. F. C. DEVARAJ URS stated that there were between five thousand and six thousand Shanbhogs and about sixteen thousand Patels in the State. He agreed that these really were the back-bone of village administration. If they were kept above want, the State would certainly prosper. The *potgi* that was paid to them at present was certainly not adequate. Some of the officers seemed to be under the impression that there was little work for village officers apart from the work of collection. It was a mistake to think so. As a matter of fact, nothing that was important would take place in the villages without their help and even the success achieved by some of the village panchayets in their normal work was due to the interests evinced and trouble taken by the village officers. Similarly, if heavy arrears remained uncollected in many of the village panchayets, it was also due to the want of inducement and encouragement to the village officers. The scales of pay to the

teachers had just been revised in the Education Department and scales in all other departments had been revised more than once in the past. It was unfortunate that the scales of *potgi* to Shanbhogs and Patels alone remained stationary for a long time past. If as stated, the expenditure which village officers were obliged to incur under various heads and in various connections was much more than the income accruing to them, there was no alternative for them but to become corrupt. Bearing this in mind it was necessary that Government should take a liberal view of the case and whatever the expenditure involved, give some reasonable increase to all the Shanbhogs and Patels.

Mr. M. ABDUL AZEEZ was in favour of village officers being given some improved emoluments in consideration of the hard, loyal and sustained work which they were expected to do. At the same time he wanted to be assured that in consequence of any such improvement the tax-burden on the raiyat would not increase.

Mr. T. SHADAKSHARAPPA reminded the House that this question of *potgi* enhancement was coming before the Assembly for a very long time past. The duties of village officers were doubtless heavy and their responsibilities very great. Any officer of any department who visited the villages could not help indenting upon the services of the Shanbhog and the Patel concerned. If such hard-worked village officers were not paid adequately, they would naturally utilise part of the revenue collections they were able to make. It was up to the Government to see that the village officers were not put to such a dire necessity.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY said that this was one of the most important representations for consideration in the House and he had great pleasure in supporting it. He hoped that Government would also consider it with that amount of seriousness which the question demanded. It was unfortunate that the scales of *potgi* remained unrevised for several decades together. If the Government conceded that village officers were honorary workers and not regular servants of the Government, they might treat the *potgi* as merely an allowance. But the Revenue Minister had made it clear at the previous session of the House that what the village officers got was not an allowance or an honorarium but remuneration, pure and simple. If this was so, then, the village officers must necessarily be regarded as Government servants and in that case the remuneration paid to them must be commensurate with the duties expected of them. If one was prepared to face facts boldly, he would say that because the *potgi* was altogether insufficient, some of the village officers were misappropriating funds. From the very little that they got as *potgi* they had to buy articles of stationery, incur railway fares, hotel charges and various other miscellaneous and unforeseen items of expenditure. Such of the village officers as were illiterate were bound to make payments to taluk officials also.

Secondly, village officers' work was increasing from day-to-day. There was the Record of Rights work, Record of Rights collections, collection of panchayet taxes and various other responsibilities that were being entrusted to them from time to time.

Thirdly, even ordinary privileges such as that of becoming members of certain political parties were being denied to the village officers. Government justified such an attitude on the ground that village officers were Government servants. Granting that they were so, Government should also see that for being subjected to such restrictions, the village officers got some recompense. It might be that the number of Patels and Shanbhogs was very large and that the total cost of even a small increase in their *potgi* would come to a very high figure. Still, so long as the necessity for an increase was established, the responsibility of finding ways and means devolved on the Government. Instead of finding ways and sanctioning some increase, if the Government merely postponed consideration of the question, then, dissatisfaction was bound to grow in the villages. It would be highly inadvisable for Government to allow such a thing to happen.

Mr. N. RAMA RAO said that the *potgi* drawn by Shanbhogs and Patels had not been fixed with reference either to the quantity or to the nature of work done by them at present but on the basis of the work that was expected of them very long ago. It was not clear yet whether village officers were Government servants or not. No doubt particular representatives of the Government had expressed their own views on the question. But representatives of the people had serious doubts about such views. They had reason to hold that village officers were not Government servants. At any rate they were entitled to remuneration commensurate with the duties expected of them ; and if such remuneration was not given, no one would be justified in expecting Patels and Shanbhogs to do their work honestly and steadfastly.

With regard to the question whether village officers were Government servants or not, the speaker contended that if they were really Government servants, they could not have been allowed to take part in the deliberations of the Assembly. For this reason alone he contended that the village officers were not Government servants. At any rate, so long as they were allowed to continue to enjoy the privilege of becoming members of the Assembly, they could not be treated as Government servants. Even apart from that, they were entitled to expect adequate remuneration for the work they did and if they were treated as Government servants, it was all the more the reason why they should be paid proper remuneration.

Proceeding, the member said that there were sufficient reasons for regarding their *potgi* as honorarium. He had personally seen many important Despatches in which certain high-placed personages had clearly recorded that certain Patels had been of considerable help to them and that Patels were heads of their villages, that their word was law and that they were regarded as the representatives of the Ruler. That was the importance which attached to the Patels in the past. Even at the present time there were many important things that could be done by Patels. For example, their help was very necessary for resuscitating the villages. Their help was necessarily to be enlisted in the matter of starting village industries. There must be some one present in each village who could be charged with the responsibility of seeing that the several industries and other experiments worked well. It was only the Patel and the Shanbhog that could be entrusted with such a responsibility. In almost every village one or more Government officers would be seen every day and without the co-operation of the village officers, they could do nothing in the villages. This meant that village officers were having a busy time of it every day. They really were the backbone of the country They were really the backbone of the Government and they really were the back-bone of any social organization and if they should be expected to do good work, their remuneration must be improved at all costs.

Mr. KHAJI SYED YUSUF SAHIB was of opinion that there were not many practical suggestions in what the previous speakers had stated. He was aware that some of the village officers were getting hundreds of rupees as *potgi*. Even granting that the *potgi* was raised by a certain percentage, there were bound to be complaints because while a few might get decent *potgi*, many others might be getting very small sums. It was never possible for a Government to pay all people uniformly. This was the reason why in British India the system of salaries had been in vogue. According to the British Indian Scheme, the village officers were bound to show collections to some extent every month. With regard to the expenses of collection, the villages themselves were made to bear a portion. Similarly in Mysore if the Government was expected to bear the extra cost resulting from enhancing the *potgi* to village officers, it would be neither reasonable nor workable. The best way of solving the question seemed to be that for every village or group of small villages, a Shanbhog and a Patel must be appointed and the concerned villagers made to bear their cost.

Mr. S. VENKATASAMI GOWDA remarked that the member who had just spoken obviously did not know the difficulties of village officers. If the British Indian system came to be copied in Mysore in its entirety at any time in future, the arrangement relating to payment of *potgi* could also be copied therefrom. But so long as that was not the system in vogue in Mysore, some independent means of keeping the village officers above want would have to be found. Government knew full well that collection was not all the work expected of village officers. There were many duties defined and undefined which they would be called upon to do. There was no justification in assigning additional duties from time to time to the village officers and yet refusing to pay anything more than their ancestors got centuries ago.

Patel SIDDE GOWDA supported the representation and urged that travelling allowance should be paid to village officers whenever they went to Taluk Offices on duty.

The REVENUE COMMISSIONER (Rukn-ul-Mulk S. Abdul Wajid) stated that village officers were free to take up private engagements provided, of course, they did so without prejudice to Government work, and for such engagements they were also free to receive remuneration. Government had no objection to village officers supplementing their income in other legitimate ways. They held hereditary appointments by virtue of the fact that their elders were considered to be important men in the village. That was also the reason why they had been entrusted with the responsibility of collections. In addition, they were also expected to look after the welfare of the village as a whole. In the past, if for instance the crops failed, the village officers were in a position to make loans of grain to the affected raiyats either themselves or through the well-to-do raiyats. For all such services they were held in very great esteem and not regarded merely as Government servants. The *potgi* that they drew must be regarded more as an honorarium and not remuneration. The prestige that they commanded was a great thing. That being so there was no justification for asking that *potgi* should be improved.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY remarked that the view expressed by the Revenue Commissioner was in direct opposition to the view expressed by the Government at the previous session of the House.

Mr. M. N. JOIS asked whether in view of what the Revenue Commissioner had stated the Government would grant that village officers were honorary workers and not Government servants.

Mr. K. NANJUNDA RAO said that he was glad to hear the Revenue Commissioner say that Patels and Shanbhogs were at liberty to take up subsidiary occupations and receive remuneration therefor. But he was sorry to bring to the notice of the House that he himself had been removed from the Shanbhogi office by the Revenue Sub-Division Officer on the ground that he had engaged himself in business.

The PRESIDENT said that running a regular shop was perhaps much beyond what the Revenue Commissioner had in mind.

Mr. K. NANJUNDA RAO proceeded to say that he was unable to follow the argument of Mr. Khaji Syed Yusuf Sahib, *viz.*, that it was not fair that a few of the village officers should draw hundreds of rupees as *potgi* while a large number of their confreres got only a small sum. If the former got so much, it was because they were toiling in the villages all through the year. If the latter got little, it was all more reason to enhance their *potgi*. There was nothing new which that member had suggested, *viz.*, that villages shuld be grouped and each group entrusted to the charge of a Patel and a Shanbhog. Grouping was in vogue in the State already and *potgi* also had been fixed on the basis of the revenue demand. But the scales of *potgi* were too low and most of the Shanbhogs were unable to keep their bodies and souls together with what they got. They were men who had dedicated their lives to the service of the country. They were not men who were privileged to retire after a certain number of years of service and enjoy the benefit of a

pension for life. It was undisputed that they deserved very much better scales of *potgi*. He therefore supported the representation with great pleasure.

The MINISTER for REVENUE and FINANCE (Rajamantrapravina K. V. Anantaraman) stated that the representation was merely meant to urge that the scales of *potgi* to Patels and Shanbhogs should be improved: but many other points had crept into the discussion. It might be that the village officers had certain grievances but that was nothing peculiar to them, since many other classes of persons had grievances of their own. However, speaking of the village officers in particular, he would like to say that Government were aware that the village officers had a grievance and it was hoped that conditions would soon improve so as to render possible a revision of the scales of *potgi* allowed to them.

One member had remarked that Government, who had sanctioned a revision of the scales of pay of school masters recently and of officials of all other departments from time to time, should have also considered with due sympathy the question of increasing the scales of *potgi* of village officers. This, no doubt, was a reasonable argument; but it should be borne in mind that before sanctioning the recent revision of the scales of pay of school masters, Government had to take long over considering the ways and means of doing so. The question of revising *potgi* scales was an equally large question in view of the very large number of patels and shanbhogs, and it was therefore not a question on which a decision could be taken off-hand. However, as stated already, Government were fully aware of the importance of this representation and they would do all they could, at as early a date as possible, to give shape to their intentions that the scales of *potgi* of village officers should be improved.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH was glad to hear such a sympathetic statement by the Minister-in-charge. But if the difficulty of the Government was only want of funds as stated, he suggested that suitable *inamthis* be granted to the village officers in lieu of improved potgi.

At this stage, **Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI** referred to a remark made by the previous speakers to the effect that a Muslim member had expressed himself in opposition to the scales of *potgi* to patels and shanbhogs being improved. This was not a correct presentation, or understanding, of what the Muslim member had stated. The view expressed by that member was that uniformity of payment was desirable and that, for this purpose, the smaller villages might be grouped where necessary. He therefore wanted to make it clear to the House that neither the particular member referred to by the previous speaker, nor any member of the Muslim Group was opposed to *potgi* of shanbhogs and patels being improved. On the contrary, they were all in favour of the representation under discussion.

No. 37.—Converson of *miras* to thotis and thalaries into cash.

Patel PATTI BASAPPA (Molakalmuru—Rural).

Patel PATTI BASAPPA represented that the thotis and thalaries were not being given grains, etc., by many of the raiyats as per rules. Livelihood had become very difficult for them and many of them were therefore not doing Government work properly. Hence, he prayed that the present system be abolished and the salary to be paid to the thotis and thalaries be recovered from the raiyats in the form of a cess along with land revenue and the amount paid to them.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA supported the representation. He said that originally even patels and shanubhogs were getting *miras* like thotis and thalaries, and as a result of repeated representations made in the Assembly, the system of giving them *miras* was taken away and *potgi* system was substituted. It was a pity that at the time that question was considered sympathetically by the Assembly, the case of thotis and thalaries was not taken up. Consequently, *miras* system continued in some cases only on paper, since many of the thotis and thalaries

were not actually getting anything from the raiyats in return for services rendered by the former. Thus thotis and thalaries were practically in the position of slaves. The representation before the House, amounted in other words to praying that Government should abolish that kind of slavery and order regular cash payments to thotis and thalaries in lieu of *miras*.

Mr. T. SHADAKSHARAPPA was also in favour of the representation. He said that it was a fact that in Challakere Taluk, many raiyats were not paying *miras* and the aggrieved servants had filed many complaints before the Amildar. Unfortunately, the Amildar had too many things to attend to and these complaints were not being disposed of promptly. The raiyats were harvesting their crops in the meanwhile and the village servants were going without any remuneration. No one can deny that any important work done in the villages could only be done with the help of thotis and thalaries. In other words, were having all work and no pay. If that was so, it was easy to see that thotis and thalaries were finding it difficult to keep their body and soul together. Obviously, they were unable to resort to courts of law and get their rights established. The representation therefore proposed that *miras* system be done away with and regular cash payments substituted. It also suggested that the salaries so paid might be recovered from raiyats in the form of a cess along with the land revenue. If this proposal was agreed to, it would satisfy the village servants, without at the same time causing any inconvenience to the raiyats, who would have to pay a cess instead of parting with a small part of the crop they grew. It was a suggestion worthy of the most sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Government.

Mr. S. VENKATASWAMY GOWDA enquired whether the member was suggesting that the levy of the cess should apply only to Chitaldrug District or throughout the State.

Mr. T. SHADAKSHARAPPA replied that the same system should be introduced throughout the State.

Mr. S. VENKATASWAMY GOWDA then said that he could not subscribe to that view. He also said that in his district (Kolar District), *miras* was being paid regularly by the raiyats. No doubt in a few rare cases, there might be default and even in such cases the Revenue Inspectors and Amildars were inducing the raiyats to pay *miras*. That being so, there could be no justification for levying an additional cess. He hoped that all the raiyats throughout the State would not be subject to such a fresh levy merely because a few members made representation.

Patel PATTI BASAPPA asserted that 90 per cent of the raiyats were not paying *miras* to thotis and thalaries.

Mr. M. C. CHELUVIAH also said that many raiyats were not paying *miras*. He then referred to the difficulties experienced by even such of the thotis and thalaries as had agricultural lands of their own. In cases in which channels were constructed, they, as land-owners, were compelled to pay water rate and contribution, but as they were unable to pay the same, they had been obliged to resign their lands. Thus, they were unable to grow any crops of their own. If, at least, the raiyats gave their *miras* regularly, they could somehow manage to live on and serve the raiyats. But, as *miras* also was not being given, they were reduced to a state of starvation. In spite of it they could not refuse to render service to the villagers whenever they were called upon to do so, nor to attend to the calls and instructions given by Government officers who frequently visited the villages. He, therefore, appealed to the Government to consider the representation both sympathetically and urgently.

Mr. C.T. HANUMANTHIAH stated that the patels and shanbhogs were having an easy time of it. They sat in the village *chavadi* and commanded thotis and thalaries to run about on various errands such as finding out and producing particular persons required. In spite of several difficulties, they were discharging their duties most loyally. In particular, revenue collection would not be possible at all without the help of thotis and thalaries. In spite of these

services both to the Government and the villagers themselves, the latter were not paying *miras* regularly to these servants. If at all, non-payment may be justified if the raiyats themselves could not raise satisfactory crops. But, if they refused to pay even in cases where crop returns were rich, non-payment certainly could not be excused. In the circumstances, the only way of doing justice by the village servants was to institute a system of *potgi* in respect of them also as in Madras and as in the case of the village officers even in Mysore State.

Mr. SHEIK AHAMAD SAHEB said that in Dodballapur Taluk, owners of lands under most of the major tanks were gladly paying *miras*. If particular raiyats did not give, they were not receiving any service from thotis and thalaries. There was, therefore, no need to make any radical change in the present system. It may be that village servants themselves preferred the *potgi* system to be substituted. But the raiyats were not in favour of it. The present system was working quite satisfactorily. If at all particular raiyats failed to pay *miras*, the Amildars were quite competent to compel them to pay. For all these reasons, representatives of Dodballapur Taluk in particular and Bangalore District in general, were definitely opposed to the representation under discussion.

Mr. A. BHIMA NAIK stated that in many cases raiyats were in the habit of combining to refuse *miras* to the village servants and generally speaking, it was only the poorer raiyats that paid *miras*, the more influential raiyats not caring to pay. For these reasons, cash payments would any day be preferable.

Mr. S. C. MALLIAH agreed that thotis and thalaries were very hard-worked servants. They deserved proper remuneration for rendering service just as patels and shanbhogs deserved remuneration for the services rendered by them. At the same time, he was strongly opposed to the proposed levy of an extra cess from the raiyats. Cash payment might take the place of *miras*. But in the case of thotis and thalaries to whom land *inamthis* had been granted, payment of *potgi* or monthly pay might be thought of, if the lands were surrendered to Government. In other cases, where *miras* was already in vogue, it should not be withdrawn nor cash payment substituted.

Mr. GIDDI DYAVIAH stated that he had worked as a thoti and thalari for some time and was therefore able to speak from personal experience. In addition to services of various kinds rendered to the raiyats during the day, thotis and thalaries were also expected to do night kaval duty. In cases of fatal accidents, they would have to remain on duty till *mahazars* were drawn up whether by day or by night and irrespective of the inclemencies of weather. In certain cases, when dead bodies were being taken for cremation, the village servants also were made to carry headloads of fuel, etc. Again in all cases of births and deaths, they must convey reports to the concerned Registrar or Sub-Registrar. It was unfortunate that the raiyats, on whose behalf so many duties were being performed by the village servants, were even taunting the latter on occasions when they went to collect *miras* from the former. The raiyats sometimes assumed an air of superiority and remarked that thotis and thalaries were not creditors to demand *miras*. In spite of these hardships the thotis and thalaries felt that they should not alienate the sympathy of the villagers. At any rate, they were helpless to enforce payment. The Government must take pity on them and consider whether cash payment would not definitely improve their lot. If this representation could not for any reason be entertained, the Government must at least be pleased to grant some additional fertile lands as *inamthis* to thotis and thalaries.

Mr. HUSSEIN ALI BEIG agreed that many raiyats were not paying *miras* regularly and that they were unnecessarily insulting the thotis and thalaries. He was not a little surprised that experienced persons like Mr. S. C. Malliah and Mr. Shek Ahmed Saheb had opposed the representation. This only showed that these members had no sympathy for the unfortunate village servants.

Mr. S. C. MALLIAH offered a personal explanation. He said that the view he had expressed was that thotis and thalaries were entitled to reasonable remuneration for their work but that a levy of an extra cess from the raiyats on that account would not be justifiable.

Mr. HUSSEIN ALI BEIG said that even the raiyats should, with a view to helping the poor village servants, offer to bear some extra burden if necessary. As a contractor himself, he was in touch with a large number of poor men and knew all their difficulties. If the raiyats were definitely against paying extra cess, then the Government must favourably consider the alternative suggestion that every thoti and talari be given agricultural lands to the extent of 15 or 20 acres.

At this stage the House rose for lunch and re-assembled at 3-30 p. m.

Mr. G. KENCHAPPA suggested that during *jamabandi*, the Revenue Officers must make it a point to verify whether the raiyats were paying *miras* regularly or not. It would be very hard to expect the thotis and thalaries to represent their grievances in each case. If the Revenue Officers themselves took interest in the matter, the raiyats would be induced to make payments regularly. If, for any reason, they could not do so, then the Government must think of levying a cess from the raiyats and substituting a system of *potgi* in lieu of *miras*. If any one of the two alternatives was accepted and given effect to, Government business would go on even more smoothly and efficiently in future.

Mr. M. HANUMANTHIAH stated that some years ago the Revenue Commissioner had issued a circular to the effect that the raiyats must be made to give *miras* regularly and that notice be served on defaulting raiyats. It was unfortunate that the raiyats thereafter considerable trouble to the thotis and began to give thalaries. This grievance was most noticeable in Nagamangala Taluk, particularly in Bettahally. The matter went up before the Amildar and he held an inquiry into it. But the thotis and thalaries did not appear before him. It was later understood that these raiyats had paid *miras* in the meanwhile. That incident was enough to show that if only Government officers interested themselves in the matter, thotis and thalaries would have no difficulty in collecting *miras* due to them. A still more satisfactory arrangement would be for the local officers themselves to collect *miras* and distribute it among the thotis and thalaries. This was a matter that was being agitated for over ten years past. The difficulties of the thotis and thalaries, generally speaking, were now greater than before. From this point of view, the best thing to do was for Government to consider the present representation sympathetically so that the village servants would not be at the mercy of the raiyats in the matter of *miras*.

Mr. M. A. RAME GOWDA represented that the raiyats were finding it very hard even to pay land revenue with the help of the crops they realised. An additional cess in lieu of *miras* would only add to their difficulties. For this reason, Government would do well to grant suitable *inamthis* to village servants. This would be a great source of help to them and at the same time the raiyats would not have to bear any additional burden.

Mr. ABDUR RAUF KHAN who also spoke from personal experience, stated that thotis and thalaries were living a most miserable existence because of the fact that *miras* was not being paid to them regularly. Even the more affluent of the raiyats were in the habit of paying only a part of the stipulated quantities. If the thotis and thalaries ventured to complain to the concerned officers, the raiyats were in a position to give considerable trouble to them. The best thing in the circumstances was to leave the present system unaltered and at the same time to compel the raiyats to pay *miras* regularly. If this was done there would be no need whatever to levy a separate cess as suggested in the representation.

Mr. H. HONNIAH supported the representation and added that in view of the fact that no important work in the villages could go on without the

assistance of the thotis and thalaries, a percentage commission on all the collections made in the villages be paid to each thoti and thalari.

Mr. H. KRISHNAMURTHY ACHAR contended that the raiyats were not withholding payment of *miras* to the village servants. He was certain that if a detailed inquiry was instituted, the correctness of his statement would be established. At the same time it was true that the thotis and thalaries were serving the Government more than the raiyats. It was for this reason that *inamthis* had been granted to them. From both these sources, namely, *miras* and income from land, the thotis and thalaries were having sufficient return for all the services rendered by them. There was therefore no need whatever to levy any additional cess from the raiyats.

The MINISTER for REVENUE and FINANCE (Rajamantrapravina K. V. Anantaraman) replying to the representation, observed that while some members were in favour of abolition of *miras* and levy of fresh cess in order that payment of *potgi* might be substituted, others were satisfied that the existing practice was working quite satisfactorily so that the levy of a new cess was not called for. Government were aware that thotis and thalaries were having some difficulty in the matter of collection of *miras*. But how far relief was called for and in what way such relief could be afforded to them was a question for further consideration. There were certain difficulties in the way of levying a new cess as suggested. There were a number of individuals claiming to be doing duties of thotis and thalaries. If the system of cash payment was proposed, the main difficulty would be that all such persons would claim a share so that each of them would get very little. Even if a cess was levied it was very doubtful whether the collections would be such as to result in a reasonable payment to each one of the large number of thotis and thalaries in the State. The easiest way of solving the question appeared to be for such of the raiyats as were not paying *miras* regularly to make up their minds to pay it regularly in future. Members from Kolar district might contend that *miras* was not being refused in any case in that District. But it was a fact that at least in some other places it was not being paid regularly. If, therefore, shanbhogs and patels took some little interest in the matter of *miras*, it could be collected easily.

No. 38.—Establishment of a Land Mortgage Bank in Malavalli Taluk.

Mr. M. SREENIVASIAH (Malavalli—Urban).

Mr. M. SRINIVASIAH prayed that a land mortgage bank be established in Malavalli Taluk to facilitate the raiyats taking loans and converting their dry lands into wet and for the improvement thereof, in view of the recent extension of the Irwin Canal scheme.

The MINISTER for EDUCATION (Mr. J. Mahomed Imam) explained that one of the conditions for introducing the land mortgage scheme was the prior introduction and completion of the record of rights in the area. The record of rights work which had been already taken up in Malavalli Taluk was not yet completed. As soon as that was completed, the question of organising a land mortgage society there would be taken up for consideration.

No. 39.—Grant of takavi loans to Adikarnatakas.

Mr. T. RANGIAH (Chikmagalur—Rural).

Mr. K. SIDDIAH (on behalf of Mr. T. Rangiah) represented that the Depressed Class raiyats been had borrowing money from private money-lenders at exorbitant rates of interest for improving their lands. All the crops harvested by them were being taken away by the creditors towards their dues. He, therefore, prayed that the Adikarnatakas might be given relief by the grant of takavi loans by the Government for improvement of their lands, the loans being recovered in easy instalments along with land revenue *khists*.

The REVENUE COMMISSIONER (Rukn-ul-Mulk S. Abdul Wajid) replied that if proper security was furnished, there would be no difficulty in granting takavi loans to them.

Mr. K. SIDDIAH replied that loans might be advanced on the security of the lands themselves.

Mr. S. ABDUL WAJID replied that it could be done.

No. 40.—Grant of takavi loans during the current year.

Mr. M. A. RAME GOWDA (Mudgere—Rural).

Mr. M. A. RAME GOWDA represented that during the current year, particularly in the Mudgere Taluk, there were several cases of lands getting silted, damaged and rendered unfit for cultivation due to the heavy downpour of rain. He prayed that local officers be instructed to recommend all bad cases for complete remission of land revenue and for half remission in cases where only half the crop was raised and for the grant of land improvement loans to the raiyats that applied for them.

The PRESIDENT enquired how many villages had suffered such damage.

Mr. M. A. RAME GOWDA replied that he himself had seen 4 or 5 villages of that type.

The REVENUE COMMISSIONER (Rukn-ul-Mulk S. Abdul Wajid) explained that the rules permitted of the remission of half the wet assessment in cases of hardship, after necessary enquiries by the Revenue Officers.

Mr. C. SUBBANNA NAIK brought to notice that similar hardship was felt by the raiyats in certain other parts of Malnad such as Sringeri, Koppa and Narasimharajapura Taluks, due to very heavy rains. The damage done by the rains was almost like that wrought by the floods of 1923-24.

The PRESIDENT observed that if the raiyats concerned applied to the revenue authorities for relief, each case would be investigated and suitable relief granted in deserving cases.

No. 41.—Loans to Malnad raiyats.

Mr. N. K. PUTTE GOWDA (Manjarabad—Rural).

Mr. N. K. PUTTE GOWDA prayed that loans be granted to the raiyats of malnad parts liberally and at low rates of interest as they had suffered heavily on account of excessive rains.

The PRESIDENT replied that if loans were applied for, they would be granted.

No. 42.—Establishment of Debt Conciliation Boards.

Mr. G. KANCHAPPA (Chiknaikanhalli—Rural).

Mr. G. KANCHAPPA prayed that Debt Conciliation Boards be established this year alone at such places where there were land mortgage banks to relieve the burden of indebtedness of the raiyats. He added that if once the raiyats were relieved of their existing debts, they would not contract debts afresh.

Mr. S. RAMAPPA speaking from his experience as Secretary of a land mortgage bank, averred that unless the existing debt burden of the raiyats was scaled down by a debt conciliation board, the raiyats could not get any relief. Even though the scheme itself had been introduced in 1938 and the Government had accepted the principle that debt conciliation boards should be established in all taluks in which land mortgage banks existed, such boards had been established in very few taluks and that as an experimental measure. The result was that the land mortgage banks were unable to work efficiently. They could not sanction loans unless the debts were conciliated. It was therefore very necessary to grant the request contained in the representation.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY in further supporting the representation, pointed out that even though there were more than 50 land mortgage banks in the State, there were only 8 conciliation boards. Extension of the scheme to all such places was thus a matter of urgent importance. In the alternative, loans to the necessary extent should be advanced, by special arrangement to be made by Government, by the existing co-operative societies at least. Secondly, the sole purpose of the debt conciliation scheme was that the money required to pay off the conciliated debts should be advanced by the land mortgage banks. And while no maximum or minimum limits had been fixed in respect of the debts that might be conciliated by the board, the land mortgage banks were precluded from

lending sums below Rs. 300 or above Rs. 5,000. Thus, the debt conciliation boards and land mortgage banks could not work hand in hand in all cases. It was very necessary to co-ordinate the work of both and make the scheme work effectively.

Mr. T. S. RAJAGOPALA IYENGAR stressed the view that unless greater co-ordination was brought about in the work of the land mortgage bank and the debt conciliation board, it would not at all be possible to extend the required relief to the indebted raiyats. Creditors, as a rule, were willing to the debts being scaled down, provided there was the prospect of immediate settlement on behalf of the debtor. But this was not possible in all cases at present because banks were not in existence in all the taluks.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA, who spoke next, said that the main criticism against the land mortgage bank was that applications for loans were delayed inordinately. All the necessary preliminary investigation would have been done by the debt conciliation board and it would be unnecessary for the land mortgage bank to make any elaborate enquiry in connection with the loan application. Thus there was no reason why loan applications should be kept pending for long. In this connection, it was also a point for consideration whether better correlation between the bank and the conciliation board in each taluk would not result from appointing a common president, preferably a judicial officer, for both. In fact, there might be only one president for the Boards in 2 or 3 taluks and he might work as a whole-time officer.

The MINISTER for REVENUE and FINANCE (Rajamantrapravina K. V. Anantaraman) observed that most of the suggestions made by the members on this subject were acceptable to Government. Wherever land mortgage banks existed, debt conciliation boards were necessary and where the latter existed, the former were equally necessary. It was desirable that the management of both should be also common, if possible. But as the question of amending the Debt Conciliation Act was under consideration, Government needed some more time to examine all these proposals. As soon as the Act was amended, Government would take necessary action to give effect to the principle of the representation in question.

No. 43.—Introduction of the Record of Rights in Heggaddevankote Taluk.

Mr. H. K. THIMMIAH (Heggaddevankote—Rural).

Mr. H. K. THIMMIAH prayed that the system of record of rights be introduced in Heggaddevankote Taluk during the year 1941-42. This subject had been brought forward in the form of an interpellation at the previous session of the Assembly, when the Government promised to introduce the scheme during the current year.

The MINISTER for REVENUE and FINANCE (Rajamantrapravina K V. Anantaraman) explained that therewere only 4 more taluks, *viz.*, Heggaddevankote, Hunsur, Periyapatna and Yelandur into which the scheme had to be introduced and that the case of Heggaddevankote Taluk would be taken up in 1942-43.

No. 44.—Reduction of mutation fees.

Mr. S. RAMAPPA (Srinivasapur—Rural)

No. 45.—Reduction of mutation fees by half.

Mr. M. SRINIVASA MURTHY (Chickballapur—Rural).

No. 46.—Reduction of mutation fee to four annas.

Mr. H. KRISHNAMURTHY ACHAR (Mulbagal—Rural).

No. 47.—Fee under the Record of Rights Scheme to be reduced.

Patel T. RUDRAPPA (Dodballapur—Rural).

Mr. S. RAMAPPA brought to notice that under the existing rule, a mutation fee of Rs. 3 was being charged by the Sub-Registrar for registering a document relating to permanent alienations, such as a gift or a sale. This rate might be considered reasonable as it involved phoding. But in the case of other transactions like mortgage, hypothecation, lease, etc., a fee of 8 annas was being charged for mere recording in the register. This, in his opinion, was excessive. Beyond making an entry in

the register, no other work was involved. It was quite possible that in the course of a year or two, there would be a further alienation or the property might be redeemed by the owner, in which case, a similar fee would have to be paid again. The speaker said that he was personally aware of cases where, for registering a mortgage deed of Rs. 100, an expenditure of Rs. 10 had been incurred by way of registration and mutation fees. As the existing rates were prohibitive and the work involved was practically nothing, he had at first proposed its reduction to one anna. But subsequently out of deference to the wishes of some of his co-members, he would urge that the existing rate might be reduced to 4 annas. He hoped that the Government would agree to giving relief to the raiyats at least to that extent.

Mr. M. SRINIVASA MURTHY, in supporting the previous speaker, prayed that the mutation fee charged on mortgages, with or without possession, be reduced from 8 annas to 4 annas.

Mr. H. KRISHNAMURTHY ACHAR represented that the mutation fee of Rs. 3 now charged for phoding of subdivisions was also excessive. Again there was no justification for making a distinction in the fee for hypothecation and mortgage. He prayed that Government might go into this question as already promised by them during the previous session. It might be argued that the rates now charged were necessary for meeting the cost of special establishment maintained for the purpose. But it was clear that the collections made by way of mutation fees were far in excess of the expenditure actually incurred. Before the Record of Rights scheme was introduced, Government were issuing notices to all interested parties before any transfers were recognised. Even now that might be done. But whether that was done or not, with the introduction of the Record of Rights in almost all the taluks, the procedure had become very simple and necessary entries could be made without any difficulty. In this view and in view of the hard times through which the raiyats were passing, it would be fitting if the Government could see their way to abolish the levy altogether. If, however, that was not feasible, he said that the people would be thankful to the Government if it was at least reduced to 4 annas per entry.

Mr. T. RUDRAPPA also supported the previous speaker and urged that in taluks where the Record of Rights Scheme had been introduced, the mutation fee should be reduced to 4 annas per entry.

Mr. V. VENKATAPPA said that while there might be some justification for levying a small mutation fee in cases like mortgage, etc., there was no justification whatever in collecting any fee for registration of mere leases for even over 5 years. He had known of instances of partitioning of family properties, wherein parties who went to the Sub-Registrar's office had returned after ascertaining that the mutation fees payable were very heavy and therefore coming to the conclusion that it was not worth while incurring so much expenditure on the mere registration of partition deeds. Similarly, there was no equity in collecting heavy mutation fees for registering bonds relating to petty loans like Rs. 50 or Rs. 100. He also deplored that even in cases in which heavy fees had been paid, transfer of *khates* was delayed for years together and requested that some effective means be devised for avoiding such delays.

The REVENUE COMMISSIONER (Rukn-ul-Mulk S Abdul Wajid) reminded the House that in all the cases mentioned by the previous speakers, the question of transfer of a right was involved and entry relating to such transfer was necessary. Every entry entailed some work and there must be a staff for attending to a large number of such entries. That meant extra cost to Government. Moreover, out of the mutation fee collected for each entry, something had to be paid to the concerned patel and shanbhog. For these reasons, he was not prepared to admit that the mutation fee that was being collected was unjustly high. He however assured the House that Government had no desire to make a profit out of this fee. Their idea was merely to make the scheme self-supporting. There were only four more taluks where the Record

of Rights had to be introduced and as soon as it was completed, it would be easy for Government to find out definitely the expenditure involved in registering mutations and then fix the rates as low as possible.

At this stage, **Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY** brought to notice that in Madras, no mutation fee was being collected from parties in the case of transactions like those under discussion and that all that was levied consisted only of the registration charges. He failed to understand why a similar practice should not be followed in Mysore also.

The PRESIDENT observed that he believed that in Madras also, a fee was being levied for *hissa* survey.

Mr. Khaji SYED YUSUF SAHIB said that it had been so formerly but that the fee came to be abolished about 3 years ago. So, he said, all phoding was at present being done by the village officers without any fee.

Continuing, **Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY** said that the mutation entries meant very little work and expenditure, so that, if at all, only a nominal fee might be required. Secondly, it had been repeatedly stated that the Record of Rights Scheme was not intended to yield any profit to the Government. Thus, it was not justifiable to levy heavy rates as at present. The administration report for the previous year showed that the collections made were twice the expenditure actually incurred. In other words, the Government were making a profit at present, which was not consistent with their declared intention.

The PRESIDENT reminded the member that the promise of Government to which he made reference must have been given in connection with the maintenance part of the expenditure and not with regard to the cost of initial operations.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY replied that, all things considered, the Government were making a profit at present and that mutation fees should be abolished altogether.

Mr. S. C. MALLIAH was glad that the Revenue Commissioner had stated that the Record of Rights Scheme was still due to be introduced in four more taluks and that as soon as that was done, he would be in a position to say whether the rates of mutation fees that were being collected admitted of any reduction or not. The speaker admitted that in phoding of hissas, etc., which involved measuring, recording, etc., a separate staff was necessary and required a certain amount of expenditure. But when that work was once done, for making subsequent entries of mutations, etc., in the register, the levy of Rs. 3 would be manifestly unjust. The cost of maintenance was very little. It was also clear that the Government were not spending all that they were collecting by way of registration fees in respect of mortgages, sales and even leases. In fact, they were not incurring any extra expenditure at all on account of such transaction. At any rate, the cost might not be computed at more than one or two annas per entry, and there might be justification, if at all, for collecting that much from the parties. Instead of that, a fee of Rs. 3 *plus* a mutation fee was being collected in certain cases. At a time like the present when the raiyats were at their wits' end to pay even the land revenue, it meant very great hardship for them to pay such exorbitant fees.

The MINISTER for REVENUE and FINANCE (Rajamantrapravina K. V. Anantaraman) assured the House that, as already explained during previous sessions of the Assembly, Government had no intention of making any profit from the Record of Rights Scheme. As regards the question of cost to Government, referred to by several members in the course of the discussion, he explained that arrangements had been made to ascertain from 2 or 3 taluks, information relating to the exact expenditure incurred in those taluks. That work was nearing completion and when the information was available, it would be easy to say whether, and if so how far, there was an excess of collection over expenditure.

In regard to the contention that even the mutation fee of 8 annas was too high, as making entries was a mere

mechanical process he stated that there were several items of expenditure to be incurred out of the said fee, such as special remuneration to village officers, pay of the regular establishment maintained, wages to labourers, etc. Besides, the work of recording mutations was not so simple a process as some members seemed to imagine. In the case of alienations of land, it would be very difficult to locate the previous owner and information had to be ascertained after giving special notices to all concerned. In cases of mortgages or hypothecations, one or more persons had to go to the villages, issue notices to parties, make local enquiries and then make needful entries in the various registers. For all that a special establishment was necessary. That was why special Deputy Amildars had been appointed. Without such special arrangements, all the work done so far would go to waste and reliable information relating to ownership of lands would perhaps not always be available. So apart from paying a special remuneration, to the Patels and Shanbhogs separate establishments were being maintained and in some cases such establishments had to be increased only recently.

In spite of all this, **the MINISTER** promised that before the House meet again, he would let the House know the actual expenditure of the scheme and the amount likely to remain over after meeting such expenditure. He also assured the House that the excess of collection over the actual expenditure would be remitted to the parties concerned.

Mr. S. RAMAPPA urged that in the case of leases and transactions which were not of a permanent nature, the present heavy rates of fees should not be levied in future.

The PRESIDENT observed that whatever the nature of the transaction, the work involved would be the same and so it would not be feasible to make any distinction with regard to the scales of fees.

Mr. B. CHAMAIYA brought to notice that mutation fees were being collected in Seringapatam Taluk, even in respect of deeds of lease for even shorter periods than 5 years. As this was opposed to existing orders of Government, he urged that circular instructions be issued to the effect that such levies should be discontinued in future. He also requested that in all such cases, the fees already collected be refunded to the parties.

Mr. K. V. ANANTARAMAN replied that the request would be considered.

No 48.—Remisssion of mutation fees.

Mr. L. VENKATANARANAPPA (Chamarajanagar—Rural).

Mr. L. VENKATANARANAPPA represented that ever since the Record of Rights Scheme came into operation in his taluk, mutation fee was being collected in the office of the Sub-Registrar. But, in respect of certain transactions that had taken place before the scheme came into force, demands had not been fully recovered from the parties concerned. As their whereabouts were unknown at present, third parties who happened to be in possession of the lands concerned, were being asked to pay up the balance. He thought that this was unjust and prayed that the demand be waived.

The MINISTER for REVENUE and FINANCE (Rajamantrapravina K. V. Anantaraman) pointed out that if the whereabouts of the party concerned were unknown, it did not follow therefrom that the demand itself should be waived. But from whom the balance should be recovered, was quite a different matter altogether.

Mr. L. VENKATANARANAPPA in explaining, said that Shanbhogs and Patels were being blamed for the non-recovery of the mutation fees and therefore they were demanding payment from the raiyats who at present happened to be in possession of the lands concerned. These were third parties and had nothing to do with the original transactions in respect of which the demand had arisen. It was therefore unjust to demand them to pay up the balance. He therefore requested that the demand be waived.

Mr. K. V ANANTARAMAN replied that the matter would be looked into.

No. 49.—Increase of third grade scholarships and freeships.

Mr. T. N. KEMPAHONNIAH (Tumkur—Rural).

Mr. T. N. KEMPAHONNIAH represented that consequent on the increase in the total number of High Schools, both Government and aided, the number of students of the minor communities studying in them had also increased. But the provision under backward class scholarships had not been proportionately enhanced. To meet at least partly the demand for scholarships in respect of deserving cases, the minority communities were being clubbed together in groups. Under this arrangement, a pupil belonging to a particular minority community must wait for his chance for a scholarship for a number of years. Many poor students were therefore feeling it extremely difficult to prosecute their studies. The members composing the several scholarship committees were quite aware of these difficulties of pupils. He therefore prayed that the provision under backward class scholarships be increased to at least twice its present value.

Secondly, he prayed that each scholarship amount might be divided into two and awarded to two students instead of only one as at present. Such a procedure was being adopted in the case of Muslim students. If that arrangement was extended to all cases it would give encouragement to at least twice the number of students to prosecute their studies in High Schools.

Thirdly, every Government scholarship holder being also a free-studentship holder, the speaker pointed out that by the above arrangement of splitting a scholarship into two, the original scholarship holder continued to be also a free-studentship holder while the student to whom half the scholarship amount was newly awarded would be only a scholarship holder. The speaker requested that a free studentship also be given to the new student. He added that the rules regarding the distribution of scholarships be amended suitably to conform to the above proposals.

Fourthly, the number of free-studentships was limited to 20 per cent of the number of boys studying in High Schools. This limit had resulted in considerable hardship to a large number of poor boys of the different communities. With the hope of continuing to get freeships and scholarships they would join High Schools; but on finding themselves unable to continue to get the educational facilities, they would give up higher education and go back to the villages. To enable them to prosecute their studies, he prayed that the percentage of freeships be increased to at least 40. He reminded the Government that the above suggestions were also brought to the notice of the Education Ministerby the members of the District *Ad Hoc* Scholarship Committee when he had last come on tour to Tumkur. The speaker requested the Government to accept the representation.

Mr. U. L. RAMACHANDRA RAO brought to notice that the representation under discussion had formed the subject-matter of a resolution that had been brought forward by him some time ago and it was on the definite assurance given by the then Dewan-President that he withdrew the resolution. He regretted that the Government had not as yet implemented their promise.

The MINISTER for EDUCATION (**Mr. J. Mahomed Imam**) replied that he would consider the matter if a definite promise had been made to increase the amount of scholarships and freeships.

Mr. V. VENKATASWAMI CHETTY also supported the representation and pleaded for the enhancement of the provision to thrice the present level

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA pointed out that the procedure suggested in the representation was in fact being followed at present by some *ad hoc* scholarship committees. But it must be noted that they were adopting the procedure informally, on their own responsibility. It was likely that some other scholarship committees did not follow it because it had not the impress of authority. He therefore requested the Government to recognise the procedure and also implement the recommendations made by some of the scholarship committees in this behalf.

Mr. F. C. DEVARAJ URS observed that in reply to a resolution brought forward by Mr. D H. Chandrasekharaiya of Davangere sometime ago in regard to the same subject, the then Director of Public Instruction had replied that he would consult the several scholarship committees before finally deciding on the matter. The Mysore District Scholarship Committee was accordingly consulted subsequently. But it was a matter for regret that their recommendations in this behalf had not been accepted. Instead, they were instructed to follow the old procedure itself, *viz.*, the grouping system. But he had no hesitation in saying that by that system the difficulties of the poor boys of the minority communities in the matter of prosecuting their studies were in no way minimised. The matter had since been brought to the notice of the present Director and the Education Minister. He felt that if only the recommendations made by the Mysore District *Ad Hoc* Scholarship Committee, of which he happened to be the Chairman, were implemented, the difficulties of the poor boys would be considerably minimised.

Mr. G. KANCHAPPA agreed with the views of Mr. Bhupalam R. Chandrasekharayya and added that all poor boys must be given free-studentships without any exception.

Mr. B. CHAMAIYA in further supporting the representation, pointed out the circumstances under which a scholarship was divided between two pupils and said that even the new scholarship holder must be given a free-studentship. Such a concession was available to Muslim pupils and he requested that it be extended to all the other minority communities as well.

Mr. DEVARAKONDAPPA also supported the representation and observed that it was deserving of sympathetic consideration by Government. Being a member of the Bangalore District *Ad Hoc* Scholarship Committee, he said that he was quite aware how the members of the committee were feeling in the matter of distribution of scholarships. Due to lack of sufficient funds, their hands were tied. On the day of the meeting for the settlement of scholarships, hundreds of poor pupils appeared before them and strongly pleaded with tears in their eyes for scholarships being given to them. It was indeed a pitiable sight. The gravity of the situation became all the serious if one considered the earnestness evinced by all the students to prosecute their studies if only the education facilities they had been receiving previously were continued. But the committee members could do nothing in the matter, because funds were extremely inadequate to provide scholarships for all the poor students. Whom to give and whom to deny was indeed a great problem for them to solve. He therefore pleaded that Government should considerably enhance the provision under backward class scholarships.

Mr. D. SHEIK AHMAD whole heartedly supported the representation. He added that both Hindus and Mahomedans formed members of the State family and therefore equal and impartial treatment must be given to them in the matter of education. In this view he requested the Government to accept representation.

Dr. S. PAUL CHINNAPPA pointed out that consequent on the introduction of the backward class scholarship scheme, the number of pupils of minority communities in the High Schools had increased nearly three fold. But the number of scholarships had not been enhanced proportionately. It was because of this the minority communities were clubbed together under several groups, each group waiting for its chance for scholarship. But such grouping had resulted in a good number of boys not getting any scholarship immediately. And assuredly their number was far greater than those to whom scholarships had been given. To provide them also with scholarships, it was extremely desirable to enhance the existing provision considerably.

Secondly, even as regards the distribution of scholarships, some reform seemed to be needed. The value of scholarship given to a pupil in a High School had been reduced from Rs. 8 to Rs. 6. As the pupil was also a free-studentship holder, Rs. 6 was savings to him. It would be better if even this

reduced scholarship was divided between two pupils and also each one of them given a free-studentship. By this he thought that more number of students would be benefited.

Mr. V. VENKATAPPA pointed out that although there could be no difference of opinion among the members in the matter of enhancing the provision under backward class scholarships, he would not agree to dividing the cash award of Rs. 6 between two pupils as that in no way helped either the original scholarship holder or the new one, especially in a place like Mysore or Bangalore where the cost of living was considerable. Also, the grouping system could not be considered to be satisfactory from the point of view of any minority community. He would therefore request that the provision itself be increased considerably so as to provide scholarships for all poor pupils of the minority communities.

Mr. J. MAHOMED IMAM in replying to the debate observed that the one common suggestion from the members was to enhance the provision under backward class scholarship so that all poor boys of the minority communities might get the benefit of scholarship irrespective of the community to which they belonged. A provision of Rs. 52,980 was being made in the departmental budget every year for the award of backward class scholarships. Out of this, as much as Rs. 35,100 was being allotted for the award of third grade scholarships, *i.e.*, scholarships for pupils in High Schools only. This provision was increased by Rs. 4,000 per annum from 1940-41 onwards, owing to repeated representations from the members of the Assembly in that behalf and also owing to the increase in the number of applicants every year. As even this amount was stated to be insufficient at present, he said that he would consider to what extent the existing provision could be enhanced.

Of the other suggestions made, one was in regard to dividing each scholarship amount between two pupils. He pointed out that this suggestion did not appear to him to be a new one, for, when he was the Chairman of the Muslim Education Committee he used to get the same suggestion then also. But this proposal should be viewed from two stand-points. One was, because of the inadequacy of the amount of scholarship, the members of the scholarship committees might like to divide each scholarship so that instead of only one pupil getting the benefit two might be benefited. But he would say that they took this view probaly just to free themselves from any blame attaching to them by the people. At the same time it was essential for them to consider well whether that arrangement would really benefit each pupil. The one important principle to be borne in mind was that any help given to a student must be substantial so as to enable him to prosecute his studies, especially when he came from mofussil and had no other means of help in the place of his study. From this standpoint, the full amount of scholarship must be given to the student and any dividing it would help neither the original scholarship holder nor the new one. Another view was, while so many deserving students were starving, would it not be better to give a half meal at least to each of the two instead of a full meal for one single student? Which was better should, of course, be considered well.

There was yet another suggestion thrown out by some members. They wanted that even the new scholarship holder must be given a free-studentship. If this suggestion was to be implemented, without at the same time incurring extra expenditure, each free-studentship would have to be split up into two half-freeships. But that arrangement would not be really helpful to each student as had been already pointed out. The position would therefore reduce itself to increasing the scholarship grant.

All things considered, he said that Government would welcome the considered opinion of the several scholarship committees in the matter so that they might take such action as seemed suitable. He added that the question whether the principle followed in the case of distribution of scholarships among Muslim pupils could not be extended to the pupils of the other

minority communities as well, would also be considered by Government.

Mr. KEMPAHONNIAH asked that the reply of the Government was to his suggestion to increase the number of free-studentships.

Mr. J. MAHOMED IMAM replied that at present as many as 20 per cent of the students belonging to minor communities in High Schools were given freeships. Compared to the other States and the British Indian provinces, he had no doubt that the award of freeships in Mysore was something most liberal. Any increase therefore in the number of freeships would only result in a loss of fee income, in which case the opening of additional schools which was being urged by the public and by the members in the Press and on the platform for a number of years past would not be rendered possible. The number of poor students was so large that even the utmost help given would not satisfy all of them. If, in spite of it, it was suggested by the members that the number of freeships should be increased, he could only say that the question could not be considered, at any rate for the present.

Mr. KEMPAHONNIAH enquired whether the scholarship committees had been addressed to offer their suggestions in the matter.

Mr. J. MAHOMED IMAM replied in the affirmative.

Mr. U. L. RAMACHANDRA RAO requested that the pupils of all minority communities should be given the benefit of scholarships.

The PRESIDENT replied that all possible alternatives would be considered by Government.

Mr. S. C. MALLIAH pointed out that all scholarship committees seemed to have already sent up their recommendations in favour of splitting up scholarships and requested that their suggestions be considered sympathetically by Government.

Mr. J. MAHOMED IMAM replied that he would certainly consider their suggestions if they had sent them up already.

At 5-10 p.m., the House rose for the day to meet again at twelve of the clock the following day.